wise deposits and advances of public sector banks for the last three years are given in Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively [*See* Appendix *182*, Appendix No. *9*]

The Indian commercial banks (both public and private sector) are required to lend to the priority sector including agriculture, small scale industries and professionals and self-employed persons, as per details furnished below:

Total priority sector advances	40% of net bank credit
Total agricultural advances	18% of net bank credit
Advances to Weaker Sections	10% of net bank credit

Bank-wise performance of public sector banks vis-a-vis the target in lending to priority sector and State-wise outstanding advances to priority sector by public sector banks for the last three years are given in the Annexure-III and Annexure-IV respectively.
[*See* Appendix *182*, Appendix No. *10*]

Loan Amount Released by Nationalised Banks and NABARD for Agricultural Sector

673. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan amount released by the nationalised and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development during the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 for agricultural sector in the country, State-wise; and

(b) State-wise ration with all India loan released during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

News-Item Regarding Abuse of Passbook Scheme

674. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age dated 23rd October, 1997 captioned "15 in net for Passbook Scheme abuse";

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) action taken against those involved in the fraud.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is under investigation by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence. The investigation is yet to be completed.

Decision Regarding Sale of Public Sector Equities

675. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to hike to central budgetary receipts against sale of public sector equities from Rs. 4500 crores to Rs. 7000 crores; and

(b) if so, the details of Government shareholdings approved for sale to facilities this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) With the aim to mobilise additional budgetary resources, the budget target of disinvestment during 1997-98 has been raised from Rs. 4800 crores to Rs. 7000 crores.

(b) The Government has approved following disinvestment proposals for the years 1997-98:

(i) Upto 210 millions shares held by Government in Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL).